



***United States Attorney
District of New Jersey***

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JURY CONVICTS PHILADELPHIA MAN OF CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE

CAMDEN, N.J. – A Camden federal jury found Philadelphia, Pa. resident Frederick Sellers guilty today of one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Camden and elsewhere, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Sellers, 35, was convicted following two hours of deliberation at the conclusion of a four-day trial before United States District Judge Renée Marie Bumb. The evidence at trial showed that Sellers had agreed with Mario Estrada-Espinoza and Jose Luis Grimaldo Valencia to distribute approximately 10 kilograms of cocaine between June 2008 and October 23, 2008. Among other things, Sellers was video and audio-recorded on December 9, 2008, paying Estrada-Espinoza \$138,000 in a nighttime meeting at a Wal-Mart parking lot on Roosevelt Blvd. in south Philadelphia.

Sellers faces a maximum potential penalty of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, as well as a maximum \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for February 14, 2011.

Both Valencia and Estrada-Espinoza previously pleaded guilty. Grimaldo Valencia awaits sentencing, currently scheduled for November 22, 2011; Estrada-Espinoza fled and remains a fugitive.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge John G. McCabe Jr., the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, the Mantua Township Police Department, the Cherry Hill Police Department and the Camden Police Department for the investigation of this and related cases.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matthew T. Smith and Howard Wiener of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense counsel: Arnold Joseph, Esq., Blue Bell, Pa.